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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1891.

TWELVE PAGES.

NEWS SUMMARY.

The Hines Memorial Committee will meet.—The Electric Light Committee of the Council will meet.—The House Committee on Public Property met.—Both houses of the General Assembly were in session and important matters were transacted.—The Norfolk Ferry bill was discussed.—The State Appropriation bill was passed.—A meeting of the Virginia Historical Society was held.—The State Debt Commissioners met.

VIRGINIA.

The Shenandoah Agricultural Society this year considerably reduced its debt.—Mrs. Dr. Gibbons, of Wytheville, Va.—The Spanish American Newspaper Company was chartered in Charleston, W. Va.—Fairfax County, Va.—The Norfolk Ferry bill was discussed.—The State Appropriation bill was passed.—A meeting of the Virginia Historical Society was held.—The State Debt Commissioners met.

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REGULATION OF RAILROAD RATES.

One of the most important powers that government can exercise in its control of railroads is the regulation of its rates, as the power of the railroad to collect money for the service rendered is the very life of the railroad.

The Supreme Court of the United States, however, in the case of Stone against Farmers Loan and Trust Company, says:

"This power to regulate is not a power to destroy; a limitation is not the equivalent of confiscation. Under pretense of regulating the fares and freights the State cannot require a railroad corporation to carry persons or property without reward; neither can it do that which, in common law, amounts to a taking of private property for public use without just compensation or without due process of law."

In the case of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company against the Minnesota Railroad and Warehouse Commission the same court decided that the arbitrary power which had been given that commission to fix rates finally was unconstitutional, in that "no hearing is provided for; no summons or notice to the company before the commission has found what it is to find, and declared what it is to declare. No opportunity provided for the company to introduce witnesses before the commission; in fact nothing which has a semblance of due process of law."

It is true that in the proposed Kent bill an appeal from the decision of the commission is given, which enables the railroad subsequently to rectify the arbitrary act of the commission. This seems to invert what is the natural course to be pursued under the principles laid down by the supreme court, assuming that the railroads have the right to make their own rates under the original power given them to that effect by the Legislature, and that it is only in cases where a railroad transcends the bounds of what is reasonable and just that the State desires to limit its exercise of this power. It seems plain, then, that any action taken under the guise of law in behalf of the State to control a railroad in the matter of rates should be at once begun before the courts. To effect this we approve the following principles, which should be incorporated in any statute intended to regulate railroad rates.

1. Rates as fixed by railroads to be allowed until the same are altered as hereinafter provided.

2. Objection to rates may be made either by the commission on its own motion or upon the suggestion of any one aggrieved by any rate alleged to be unreasonable and unjust.

3. If the commission deems the rate objected to unreasonable and unjust it shall notify the railroad company to change the same after reasonable notice to a proper rate to be fixed by the commission.

4. If the railroad company refuse to adopt the rate as fixed by the commission, the commission shall forthwith summon said railroad before the court having proper jurisdiction to compel said railroad to adopt the rate fixed by said commission, or such other rate as the court may ascertain to be reasonable and just.

5. Pending this decision, any rate collected by the railroad in excess of what the court shall decide to be reasonable and just shall be refunded by said railroad to the shipper.

6. All proceedings to correct rates or to enforce rates as are reasonable and just shall be pressed to a prompt trial, and such cases and any appeals therefrom shall be deemed privileged, and shall have precedence in the court.

7. If the decision of the court is against the railroad it shall pay all costs of the proceedings.

SOUTHERN AND WESTERN CROPS.

The New York Tribune in a recent article calls attention to the fact that the West is now reaping the advantages which always result from a diversification of agricultural products while the greater part of the South is suffering from the evils which attend an almost exclusive devotion to the cultivation of one staple.

The agricultural report for December shows that the aggregate value of wheat, corn and oats of the present year exceeds that of the same crops for last year by at least \$900,000,000, and the larger proportion of this enormous difference will find its way into the hands of the Western farmers. These farmers are fortunately situated as a general rule, because even when their grain crops are selling at very low prices they are able to derive a profit at least from corn and oats in feeding stock which always commands fair returns. It is very rare that the Western farmers do not secure some margin above cost on at least one crop or one form of production.

In the greater number of the Southern States, on the other hand, the principal reliance is placed on cotton, cotton being almost the exclusive crop. When its price declines to a very low point, there is a marked depression in the planting interest, because there is no product to fall back upon. Low prices do not always discourage the planting of large crops of cotton simply because there is no crop to form a substitute.

Although there has been such an enormous falling off in the amount of the crop of cotton for the present year as compared with the crop of last year, nevertheless there is no indication of any advance in value. On the contrary, the price of the present year is materially lower than it was last year, and there is little prospect of any notable increase until short crops for several years have reduced the supply on hand. In the meanwhile the cotton States must suffer from the lack of diversification in their agricultural industries.

It is too much to expect any change in this system for many years. There seems to be a fascination in the production of staples like tobacco and cotton which diverts the attention of their producers from all other crops. From the time when tobacco and cotton were first cultivated in large quantities there has been the same complaint, that time and money were expended on them to the exclusion of all other products. It has been difficult to excite the exclusive interest of the tobacco and cotton planter in other crops until either his hands have been worn out or the prices fell for a succession of years below the cost of production.

Tobacco and cotton are more or less speculative crops, and in this probably lies the secret of the assiduity with which they are cultivated in spite of all discouragements.

UGLY DUCKS.

Hans Andersen's story of the "Ugly Duck" is tolerably familiar. The infant swan with its long neck and odd-looking head and general awkwardness was too much for the manners of the pretty ducklings. They couldn't help quacking at it and persecuting the unlucky thing. And the poor little creature felt so badly that it would go off to itself, and led a very, very sad life of it. But it went on growing, and all its ugliness turned to grace and beauty, and at last it found its element, its congenial companions and its life.

Anybody can preach a sermon on that text. Cinderella is almost another illustration of the same idea, but not exactly.

The world is all full of ugly ducks. Any

one who is out of his place in a business that he dislikes or who is compelled to keep company that is distasteful to him is an ugly duck to all about him. They don't appreciate him. They don't see what he is fit for. If they suspect him of merit they will rather prefer to brand him as a fool. And the unthinking, heartless crowd will peck at him and persecute him and mortify him to death. Then the poor fellow thinks they know him better than he knows himself, and he can't do a thing exactly as it ought to be done. Everybody is smarter than he and nothing that he says or does that is not foolish or wrong. Oh, how miserable an ugly duck can be! And there are many ugly ducks in the highest spheres and on the lowest levels on the lake and in the puddle.

Natural selection, the everlasting fitness of things, aptness and congeniality are the absolute and necessary condition of healthy development, smooth working and happiness. The disorders, discontents, failures, doleful regrets and disgusts of life come for the most part of our being misplaced and misguided—not following our natural bent and inclinations. How many fairly successful merchants are there whom chance and a strong sense of duty have brought to a competency yet fall into their ruts, almost like dray horses? Then business is a dreary plodding. They tell into their callings without any love for them, and jog along through life sadly, patiently, submissively, but conscious that they are out of place, and in the best view of it that life has been only a respectable failure, and that there has been no life. Change only words and names, and the same remarks are applicable to men in all pursuits. And the old age of retirement is spent in dreaming of the undefined ideal—the heart's desire that they have missed. The ugly ducks did not manage to get home, and so they passed their lives as cranks and oddities—eccentrics.

If it is miserable with men, how must it be with the other sex? Little children whose loves and affections have budded and expanded in the light and warmth of a loving home, what have they to do with the sensational, spectacular, heartless world? And yet how often are these dear ones from a more desire to please an ambitious father, mother, brother in the glaring pomp of dress made to take part with the mad world? They can't be ugly ducks, but they are exiles from home, unhappy in the midst of frolic and most likely well-dressed. By the rivers of Babylon they sit down and weep.

It is an easy thing to add to the number of these unfortunate. Over and over again the very features that make a noble nature unadjustable to the commonplace is some noble quality.

The whole story was told long ago. The catercorner rock that no workman could turn to account, in the way, when the work was done graced the apex of the pyramid. The stone which the builders rejected became the head of the corner. And it is enough for the disciple to be as his Master and the servant as his Lord. The Almighty has made everything beautiful in its place.

CYRUS W. FIELD AND HIS SON.

The sudden fluctuations in the condition of Cyrus W. Field, in response to the successive steps which have been taken in connection with his son, Edward M. Field, throw a very pathetic light upon his pride of character.

When it was announced that the younger Field was so disordered in his intellect that he had been removed to an insane asylum the mind of the father seemed to recover somewhat from the shock which it had undergone, and his health, which was stated by his physicians to be desperate, showed a marked improvement, as if he had found relief in the thought that the mental responsibility of his son diminished the weight of disgrace which his acts had cast upon the family name.

When later Edward Field was arrested upon the order of the district attorney of New York, and an exposure of his delinquencies became certain, the theory of insanity being no longer allowed, Cyrus W. Field, the father, suffered a relapse, from which there is no prospect of his rallying.

The stain which the impending investigation of the conduct of the younger Field will inflict upon the reputation of the Field name is more than the father can bear. The disgrace was almost intolerable when the supposed insanity of Edward Field palliated it. This partial alleviation of the dishonor of his conduct is now withdrawn and the aged father has only the unmitigated villainy of a favored and trusted son to contemplate. This last stroke has apparently gone home, as Mr. Field is reported now to be on his death-bed.

The feeling of Mr. Field is so natural that all men can sympathize with it, his sensitive nature appealing to every one who has a spark of personal or family pride in his breast. It reflects honor upon Mr. Field and upon humanity. In his last hour, we seem to see him sinking in unspeakable sorrow to the grave, while he raises his arm to shut out the sight of a world which had been darkened for him by the shame of his son.

If we look at it in the light of an impartial spectator, it is plain that no great name which has been made great by the useful achievements of a father can be really disgraced in the opinion of the world by the evil deeds of his son. In the eye of history, the name is the man who gave it its lustre, and his worthless or even criminal sons cannot dim that lustre, for it is the heritage, not of a single family, but of mankind. They are forgotten, while the name is immortal.

The name of the Fields, although not of the first order of celebrity, is universally honored in this country, and it will be remembered for many generations with respect and admiration when the record of Edward Field shall have been blotted from the minds of men.

We published last Thursday morning a spirited address to the women of Virginia from Mrs. John Paul and Mrs. John S. Wise urging their organization and concert of action for the proper representation of Virginia at the World's Columbian Exposition to be held in Chicago in 1893.

No people on earth know better than those of Virginia and the South generally what women can do when they have their hearts enlisted in any cause. Virginia's place should not be unoccupied in the Chicago Exposition. It is too much the custom of our Atlantic seaboard people to reflect rather than act. This is a case in which action is required. It is a plain case of what ought to be done.

The Feast of the Lights.

One of the feasts celebrated by the orthodox Jews is the Feast of the Lights or dedication. This feast will commence on Friday night next, and continue for eight days, and is in commemoration of the rededication of the temple following the triumph of Judas Maccabeus over Antiochus, B. C. 169, when he marched into Jerusalem unopposed with his troops and gladly and solemnly re-lighted the extinguished lights of the temple.

On their entrance into the temple a single can of holy oil was found left, and this lasted eight days, until other oil could be made; hence the eight day feast.

There will be a ball at Sanger Hall Monday night, December 29th, under the auspices of Schiller Lodge, No. 129, L. O. O. F.

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HOLIDAY WARES

AT
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We show a very handsome variety of Christmas Goods which are specially adapted for just such a present as you would like to make.

You are invited to come and inspect our display of these ornamental as well as useful presents, which are marked in plain figures and consist of the newest designs in ALBUMS, WORK-BASKETS, FRAMES FOR CABINET PHOTOS, PLUSH CASES with Toilet Fittings, OXIDIZED CASES with Men's Fittings, MOROCCO CASES with Men's Fittings, PLUSH and OAK CASES with complete SHAVING-OUTFITS, WORK-BOXES, PORTABLE WRITING-DESKS, LEATHER WRITING-OUTFITS, LIOB, LEATHER CASES with Toilet Fittings for traveling purposes, WHISK-HOLDERS, JEWEL CASES, GLOVE AND HANDKERCHIEF BOXES, PERFUME CASES AND SETS, FANCY CUT-GLASS BOTTLES, OAK AND WALNUT UP-RIGHT SMOKE SETS, SILVER SMOKE-SETS, MOUCHAR CASES, DRESSER TIDIES, LACE SETS, PAPER-HANGERS.

Our store will be open every night until Christmas.

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THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN LARGE VARIETIES.

BISQUE FIGURES, VASES, ARTIFICIAL PLANTS AND FLOWERS.

at reasonable prices. Trimmed Hats, Shapes, Tips, Feathers at cost.

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CLOTHING, &c.

A BOMB

has exploded in our Suit Department, and prices have been literally demolished. Just a little cash will buy some of the choicest and richest Suits in our stock. We'll make this the BIGGEST and most popular bargain event ever attempted by any other house in Richmond or anywhere else at any season of the year.

Here's an opportunity to save from \$3 to \$10 on a Suit. We hardly come out even on the handling, but the Clothes must go without consideration of loss; they must go, and NOW.

Read how we are selling them:

SUITS of good durable materials, every one of them properly made, which have sold for \$10—THIS WEEK—

SUITS of the newest and most fashionable patterns in Cheviots, Worsters, Home-spuns, which have sold for \$12, \$15 and \$18—THIS WEEK—

SUITS, which for material, style, make and appearance equal in every respect the finest custom garments, and which have sold for \$20, \$25 and \$30—THIS WEEK—

Overcoat at equally low prices.

Children's Suits, worth \$3 and \$5.50—THIS WEEK

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A Great Christmas Attraction!

Four Performances, BEGINNING WITH

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Period, the present, scenes of action, NEW YORK AND NEWPORT.

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